

S. 2363. An act to extend the educational flexibility program under section 4 of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 2:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4944. An act to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 190. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards.

At 6:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2320. An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 361. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 7:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 47. Joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4944. An act to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 190. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the

Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4472. An act to protect children, to secure the safety of judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and their family members, to reduce and prevent gang violence, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4911. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 16, 2006, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1184. An act to waive the passport fees for a relative of a deceased member of the Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit the grave of such member or to attend a funeral or memorial service for such member.

S. 2064. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 South Bill Street in Francesville, Indiana, as the Malcolm Melville "Mac" Lawrence Post Office.

S. 2363. An act to extend the educational flexibility program under section 4 of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-279. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to authorizing the development of a secure electronic balloting system for active duty military personnel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 411

Whereas, the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are obligated to ensure that servicepersons participate in the very democracy they are fighting to defend; and

Whereas, the National Defense Committee has recently completed a survey of the nation's 7,838 election offices; and

Whereas, twenty-eight and four tenths percent of persons who applied for a military absentee ballot in the November 2004 election were disenfranchised because their ballots could not be received, executed and returned in a timely fashion; and

Whereas, the National Defense Committee is recommending that the Congress authorize the development of an electronic balloting system for active duty military personnel: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress to authorize the development of a secure electronic balloting system for our active duty military personnel; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United

States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-280. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to honor the preferences of local governing authorities in determining the location of temporary housing sites; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established a number of temporary housing sites consisting of trailer homes for thousands of displaced families; and

Whereas, there has been much disagreement as to the appropriate locations of these temporary housing sites; and

Whereas, local governing authorities must be permitted to make the final determination as to whether or not a FEMA trailer community is established within their respective parishes and municipalities; and

Whereas, it is imperative that the power to accept or refuse the placement of a FEMA temporary housing site rests with the citizens of the community in question and not with FEMA; and

Whereas, citizens, through the power of the local elected governing authorities that represent them, should be empowered to either allow or disallow the establishment of FEMA trailer sites in their communities: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to require the Federal Emergency Management Agency to honor the preferences of local governing authorities in determining the location of temporary housing sites; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation and to the acting director of FEMA.

POM-281. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to supporting the CORRIDORone regional rail proposal and encouraging its support by counties and municipalities in the region of the CORRIDORone project; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 565

Whereas, transportation planning efforts in south central Pennsylvania should incorporate a regional planning perspective to ensure that economic development efforts are enhanced with linkages to regional development initiatives; and

Whereas, regionwide efforts must encompass a vision for the future to most wisely accommodate future growth needs, including means of transportation; and

Whereas, transportation systems in south central Pennsylvania should include multimodal forms of transportation to ensure that the full breadth of options, including rail, bus and others, are made available to citizens for the most efficient means of travel; and

Whereas, it is extremely important to preserve the existing rail rights-of-way throughout the region and this Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the intersection known as the Lemoyne Connection will provide additional

freight rail efficiency for Norfolk Southern's rail operations in the region, as well as a multimodal commuter connection in Cumberland County for the CORRIDORone commuter rail project; and

Whereas, by 2020 south central Pennsylvania is expected to experience a 27% growth in population and a 44% growth in employment; and

Whereas, further regionwide economic development efforts will extend only to the extent that these efforts can be strengthened and supported by modes of transportation to efficiently access jobs, meeting places for businesses and conventions and historical and cultural points of interest; and

Whereas, air quality and traffic congestion are projected to worsen as road traffic increases and linked forms of mass transit would positively impact air quality and congestion; and

Whereas, the proposed CORRIDORone project would establish an affordable, easily accessed, regional rail network with connections among the communities of Lancaster, Harrisburg and Carlisle and later expanding to CORRIDORTwo communities of York, Hershey and Lebanon, while providing a connection to the Keystone service line for travel east of Lancaster; and

Whereas, the CORRIDORone project would link multimodal forms of transit including intrastate and interstate rail, bus and international air to provide the most comprehensive and efficient means of travel in the region, providing greater access for business and recreational travel while encouraging tourism and other economic development efforts; and

Whereas, the CORRIDORone project would provide a cost-efficient form of transportation expansion with the cost of 41 miles of regional rail equivalent to the cost of only three miles of roadway construction; and

Whereas, Capital Area Transit has completed all of the studies required by the Federal Transit Administration, and the results show that a regional commuter rail system is the most efficient and effective mass transit alternative for the region; and

Whereas, the CORRIDORone project is 93% complete, through the preliminary engineering and environmental phases; and

Whereas, SAFETEA-LU, the Federal transportation legislation, included CORRIDORone Phase I (Lancaster to Harrisburg to Cumberland County—Hampden/Sporting Hill) for Final Design and Construction and provided authorization for alternatives analysis and preliminary engineering for Phase II—Cumberland County (Hampden/Sporting Hill to Carlisle); and

Whereas, the United States Congress has appropriated \$7,404,157 to the CORRIDORone project; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth has budgeted in Act 47 of 1997 and Act 40 of 2004 a total of \$41 million to the CORRIDORone project; and

Whereas, Section 2002 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L. 177, 22 No. 175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, as amended May 6, 1970 (P.L. 356, No. 120), set forth the powers and duties of the Department of Transportation (PENNDOT). Among those 25 powers are:

(1) To develop and maintain a continuing, comprehensive and coordinated transportation planning process.

(2) To develop programs designed to foster efficient and economical public transportation services in the State.

(3) To prepare plans for the preservation and improvement of the commuter railroad system.

(4) To prepare and develop plans and programs for all modes of urban transportation, including in addition to commuter rail and

motor bus, rapid rail; trolley coach, surface rail, corridor rail and other innovative modes of urban transportation.

(5) To coordinate the transportation activities of the department with those of other public agencies and authorities.

(6) To superintend, supervise and control the work of constructing, reconstructing, maintaining and repairing State designated highways and other transportation facilities and rights-of-way;

Whereas, the PENNDOT Strategic Agenda adopted in July 2004 stated a vision that promotes "customer driven, intermodal transportation system and services that enhance the quality of life in Pennsylvania" and a mission statement that says: "Through the active involvement of customers, employees and partners, PENNDOT provides services and a safe intermodal transportation system that attracts businesses and residents and stimulates Pennsylvania's economy"; and

Whereas, the PENNDOT Strategic Focus Areas adopted by the Rendell Administration include safety, quality of life, mobility, management and productivity and system preservation. This document seeks innovative management of our transportation system and services and improved access and mobility, ensuring that people and goods can move efficiently, and it guides the management of our assets and processes with funding and resources prioritized for the preservation and betterment of all systems and services; and

Whereas, revenue for local matching funds for the CORRIDORone project has been received from Cumberland County, Dauphin County, Lancaster County and 12 boroughs, 11 townships and more than 50 businesses throughout the region; and

Whereas, the local Municipal Planning Organization (MPO)—Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS)—has endorsed and funded the CORRIDORone project and has included the project in its 30-year plan; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives support the continued planning efforts for the CORRIDORone proposal as it could provide a needed regional linkage for economic development efforts; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives encourage the Governor and the Secretary of Transportation to do everything possible to preserve the CORRIDORone right-of-way options and future extensions as provided in the preliminary Engineering and Environmental Analysis; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, to the Secretary of Transportation, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the President of Norfolk Southern Railroad Corporation.

POM-282. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan relative to taking steps to improve access to fertility preservation options for cancer patients; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 72

Whereas, approximately 130,000 people under the age of 45 are diagnosed with cancer each year. At least 90 percent of patients within this age group will undergo potentially sterilizing treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation; and

Whereas, survivorship rates have dramatically increased over the years expanding the life expectancy of 71 percent of cancer patients by at least five years beyond the diagnosis of their disease. The long-term consequences of cancer treatment, such as infertility, are of increasing concern to patients

since they are highly likely to survive their cancer. The diagnosis of infertility can be as devastating for many patients as the cancer diagnosis itself; and

Whereas, successful fertility preservation options for men and women include sperm banking, oocyte (egg) freezing, and ovarian and testicular tissue freezing. Many cancer patients are given the option of taking steps to preserve their fertility before their potentially sterilizing cancer treatment begins. However, many others do not take these steps because they were not informed by their health care professionals that their fertility is at risk, or, if they are informed of the risk, they are generally not counseled on their fertility preservation options; and

Whereas, unrelated factors such as marital status or poor prognosis should not preclude certain patients from being informed about their fertility risks and options. The 2003–2004 President's Cancer Panel Report recognized that comprehensive written and verbal information regarding fertility side effects and fertility preservation options for all reproductive-age patients should be provided before treatment; and

Whereas, the great state of Michigan has an active, productive cancer survivor population, demonstrating that a cancer diagnosis is no longer a death sentence. We should do everything possible to make fertility preservation options available for cancer patients: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the United States Congress and the United States Department of Health and Human Services to take steps to improve access to fertility preservation options for cancer patients by endeavoring to:

(A) encourage research that will strengthen fertility preservation options for cancer patients;

(B) continue to consider ways to improve access to fertility preservation options for cancer patients; and

(C) raise awareness about the fertility side effects and fertility preservation options for cancer patients; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Michigan Congressional delegation and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

POM-283. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to enact legislation to change ZIP codes in Jefferson Parish and to assign the new ZIP codes to the main post office in Metairie; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 67

Whereas, when the United States Postal Service first instituted the ZIP code system, Old Jefferson was designated as 70121, a New Orleans ZIP code number; and

Whereas, then when the city of Harahan built a post office in its city hall, it was assigned the 70123 ZIP code, another New Orleans ZIP code number; and

Whereas, the 70123 ZIP code, as expanded, now covers the area of River Ridge as well as the city of Harahan; and

Whereas, when the new post office was built on Citrus Boulevard in Jefferson, it was also assigned the 70123 ZIP code; and

Whereas, the ZIP code directory issued by the United States Postal Service and used by businesses nationwide reports all ZIP codes beginning with "701" as having a New Orleans address; and

Whereas, this misidentification and confusion of the locations of businesses in ZIP

codes 70121 and 70123, including the businesses located in Elmwood Industrial Park which employ more than thirty-five thousand people, have caused numerous mailing and taxation problems for these companies; and

Whereas, many insurance companies impose higher premium rates attributable to properties in New Orleans on residents of Jefferson Parish in the ZIP code areas 70121 and 70123; and

Whereas, mail addressed to homes and businesses having ZIP code 70121 or 70123 was held up for more than a month in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina because of the effect that the storm had on the operations of the United States Postal Service in New Orleans; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary, due to the many problems that have occurred in Jefferson Parish with the ZIP codes 70121 and 70123, to enact legislation to change the ZIP code in Jefferson Parish in the area currently covered by the United States Postal Service ZIP code 70121 to 70021 and to change the ZIP code in Jefferson Parish in the area currently covered by the United States Postal Service ZIP code 70123 to 70023 and also to assign the new ZIP codes to the main post office in Metairie; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-284. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to reduce by twenty-five percent the amount of outstanding federal student loan debt of any college graduate who resides in certain areas of Louisiana most affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita for at least five consecutive years immediately following graduation and to memorialize congress to provide for the establishment of conditions and requirements for such debt reduction; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

Whereas, certain areas of Louisiana that were impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Rita or both have suffered a great loss in population due to the ravages of these catastrophic storms; and

Whereas, it is imperative that people from Louisiana and beyond are provided with incentives to reside in the great state of Louisiana, and one such incentive could be the reduction of certain student loan debt; and

Whereas, drawing college graduates to the hurricane-affected areas of Louisiana would be one step toward restoring the areas' populations, and populating these areas with college-educated citizens could bring positive impacts to the areas due to their ability to use the skills and knowledge acquired through their educations to help the areas to rebuild; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to ask congress to establish such a loan forgiveness program as part of a collective effort to restore the population of certain areas of Louisiana following the historic hurricanes of 2005; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reduce by twenty-five percent the amount of outstanding federal student loan debt of any college graduate who resides for

at least five consecutive years immediately following graduation in any parish in Louisiana which has been designated pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as eligible for individual assistance or individual assistance and public assistance as a result of Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita and to memorialize congress to provide for the establishment of conditions and requirements for such debt reduction; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-285. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to revising the requirement that applicants for hunting and fishing licenses provide their Social Security numbers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 461

Whereas, Section 5536 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, (Public Law 105-33, 111 Stat. 251) amended Federal law to require each state to have in place laws requiring applicants for recreational licenses (hunting and fishing) to provide their Social Security numbers; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has implemented this Federal mandate through the amendatory act of December 16, 1997 (P.L. 549, No.58), to 23 Pa.C.S.; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly supports all effective mechanisms to encourage payment of child support obligations; and

Whereas, requiring applicants for hunting and fishing licenses to provide their Social Security numbers does not appear to enhance effective enforcement of child support obligations inasmuch as hunting and fishing license records are not retrievable by reference to the Social Security numbers; and

Whereas, the vast majority of hunting and fishing licenses are not sold by government agencies but are sold by private businesses ranging in size from large department stores to small bait and outdoor shops; and

Whereas, Imposing the requirement to collect Social Security number information on the businesses that sell hunting and fishing licenses unduly complicates the license issuance transaction; and

Whereas, many purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses object to disclosure of their Social Security numbers to the private businesses that sell these licenses; and

Whereas, the legitimate privacy concerns expressed by many purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses from private businesses need to be addressed; and

Whereas, collection of Social Security numbers from applicants for hunting and fishing licenses does not aid in effective enforcement of child support obligations but does unduly inconvenience both the sellers and purchasers of these licenses and raises legitimate concerns about protection of personal information; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to eliminate the requirement that states must require applicants for hunting and fishing licenses to provide their Social Security numbers.

POM-286. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to amend the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

to recognize state law authorizing legal continuances for members of the legislature during legislative sessions and to adopt a substantially similar rule in federal court; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, Louisiana R.S. 13:4163 provides that during sessions of the legislature, if the presence of a member of the legislature is required in any criminal case, civil case, or administrative proceeding, his service shall constitute peremptory cause for the continuance of any type of proceeding upon the timely filing of a motion for continuance; and

Whereas, this statute dates back over one hundred years and was devised as a way to satisfy the compelling demands and responsibilities incumbent upon a part-time legislator, who usually must have a career outside of public service in order to make a living; and

Whereas, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not have such a provision for a continuance, but many state legislatures have business before federal courts which may significantly interfere with their responsibilities as representatives of the people during legislative sessions; and

Whereas, during this time of statewide emergency due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the duties and responsibilities on legislators have been especially demanding; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to amend the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to recognize state law authorizing legal continuances for members of the legislature during legislative sessions and to enact substantially similar rules for federal court; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 598. A bill to reauthorize provisions in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 relating to Native Hawaiian low-income housing and Federal loan guarantees for Native Hawaiian housing (Rept. No. 109-221).

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1057. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act (Rept. No. 109-222).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Charles J. Dunlap, Jr. to be Major General and to be the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the United States Air Force.

Air Force nomination of Col. William H. Walker IV to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. James L. Snyder to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Joseph C. Carter to be Brigadier General.